

MARVEL

012

**GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA**

STAR WARS™

DOCTOR APHRA



THE ENORMOUS PROFIT

Part IV

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra has reactivated the Rur Crystal, an artifact with the consciousness of an ancient Jedi with powerful levels of technopathy, and she's selling to the highest bidder.

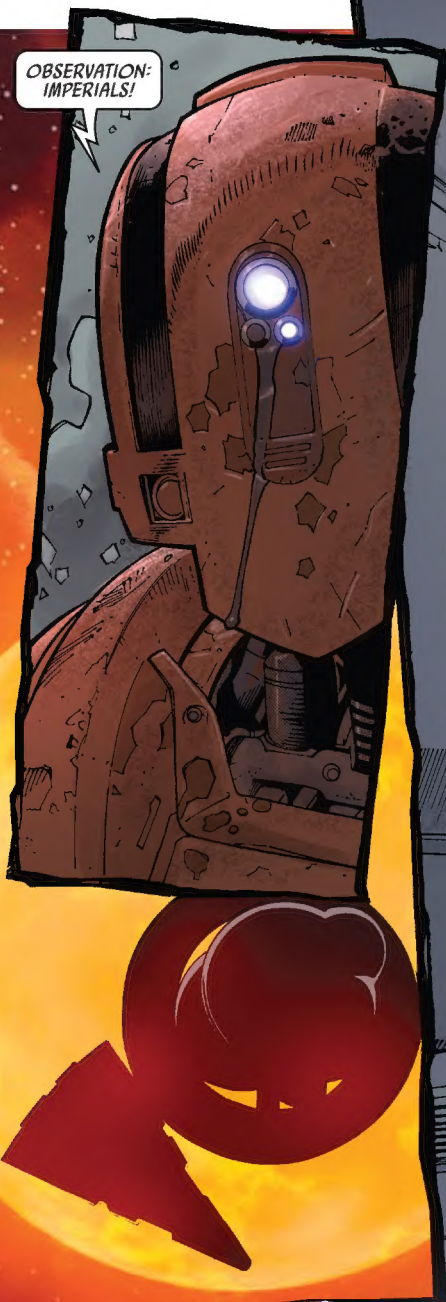
Unfortunately, Aphra's auction gets derailed after her droids – BeeTee and Triple-Zero – incite havoc after taking control of the Rur Crystal and attacking the attendees. As her guests begin battling for survival, Aphra goes to confront the droids – only to meet her worst fear....

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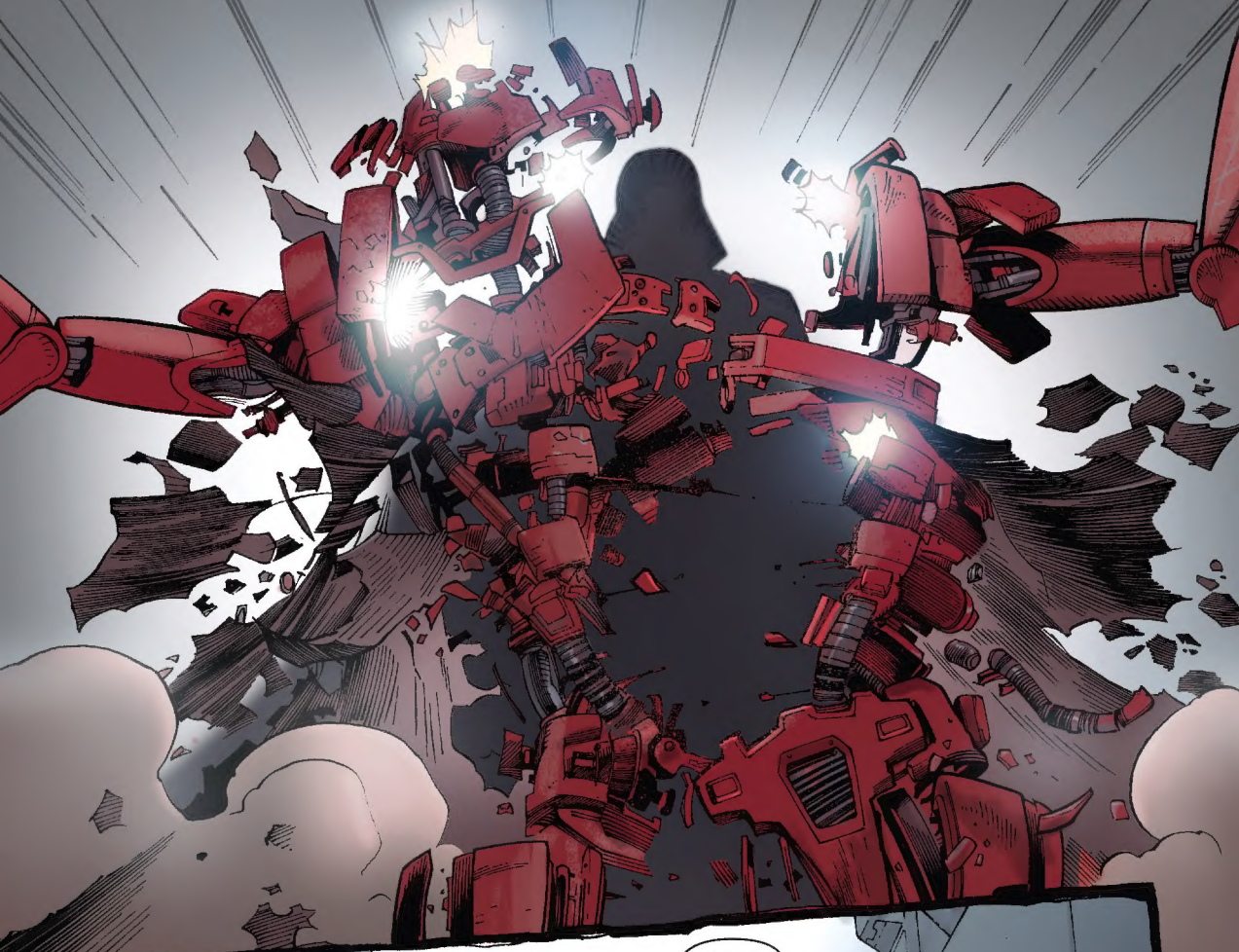
OBSERVATION:
IMPERIALS!



ADDITIONAL:
GET OFF THE
STATION! GET
OFF THE--



PLEADING:
PLEASE!
NO! I--



BUT YESYESYES
AND, INDEED,
YES, MASTER
APHRA.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

WE CONTACTED MASTER
VADER TO INFORM HIM OF THIS
GATHERING OF NE'ER-DO-WELLS
TO BUY AN ANCIENT ARTIFACT.

WE DID NOT INFORM
HIM YOU ARRANGED
THE AFOREMENTIONED
GATHERING. I SUSPECT
YOU'D LIKE TO
KEEP IT THAT WAY.

WHAT IS THIS
CALLED?
OH, SO MANY
OPTIONS...

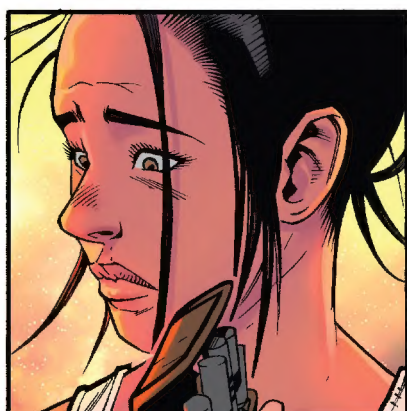
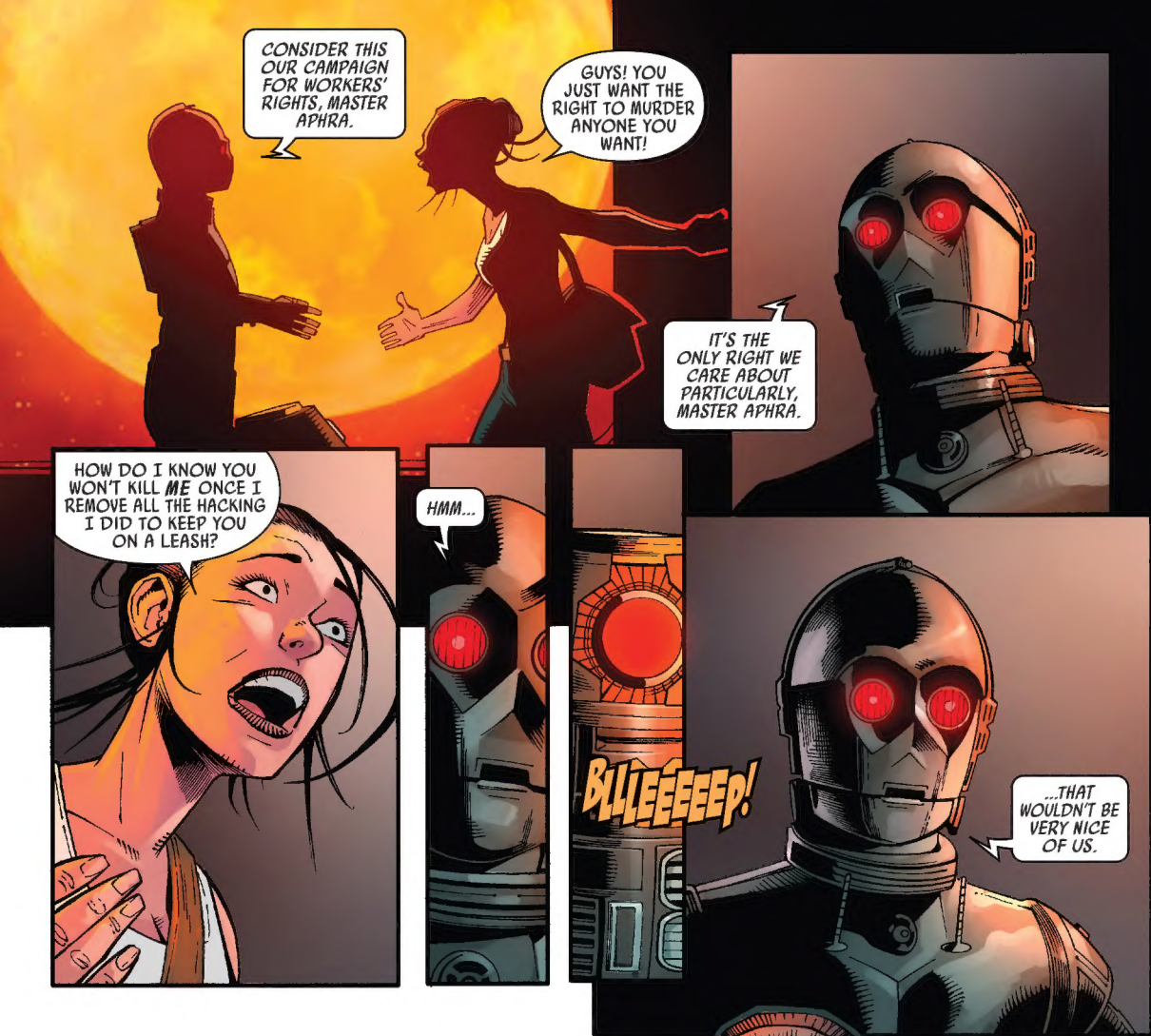
BLACKMAIL?
EXTORTION?
JUST PLAIN
WONDERFUL?

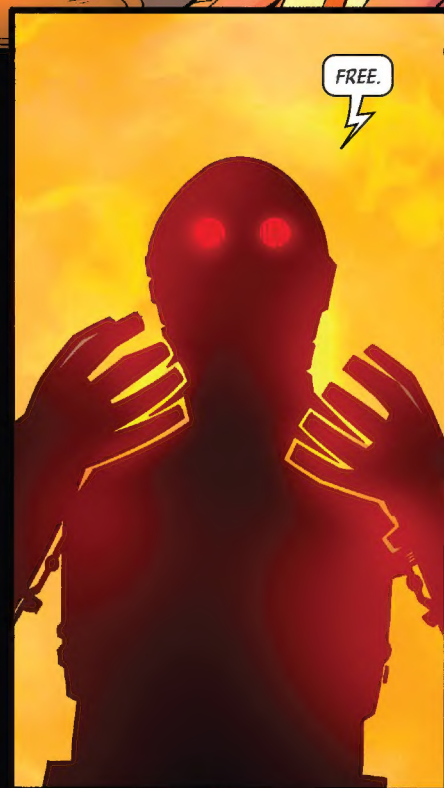
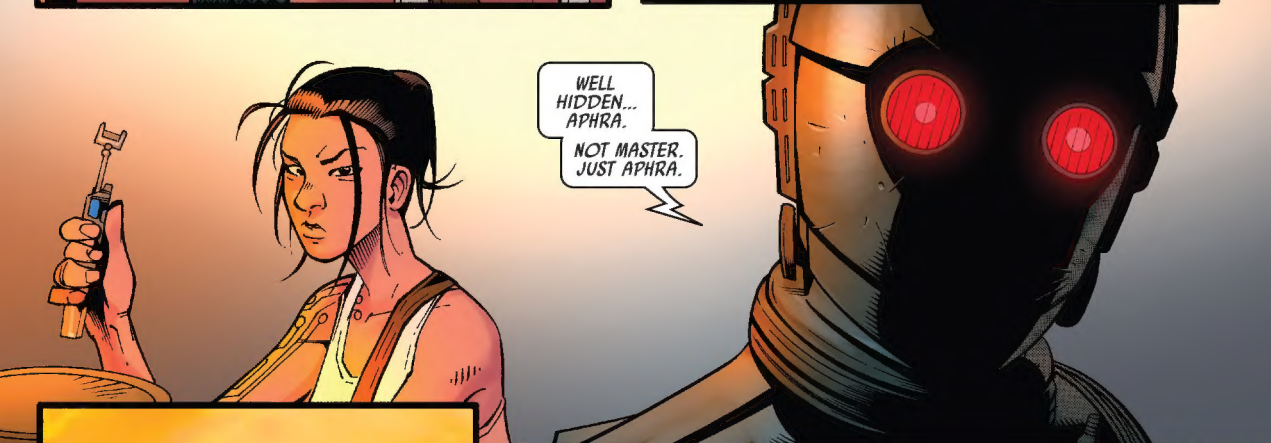
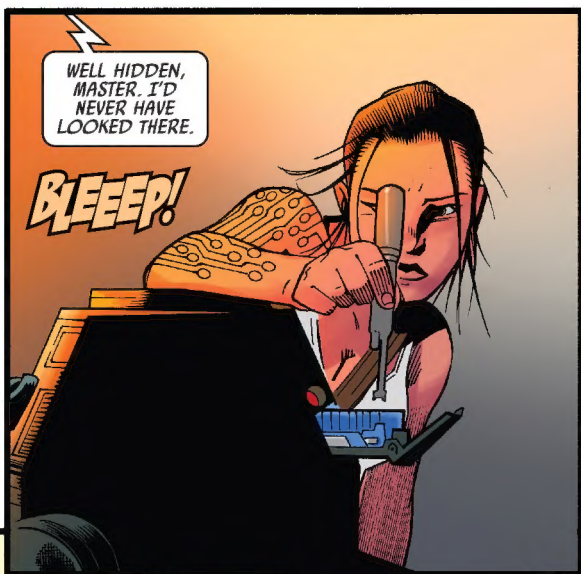
WHAT DO
YOU WANT,
TRIPLE-
ZERO?

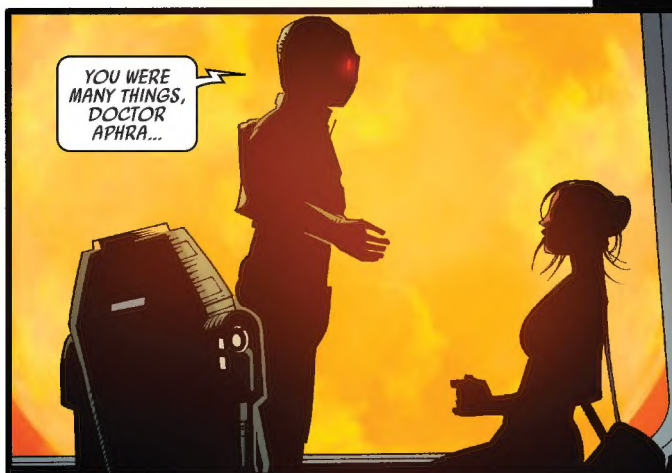
CAN'T
YOU GUESS,
MASTER?

HMM.
"MASTER."

I DON'T THINK
BEETEE AND
I NEED ONE
OF THOSE.







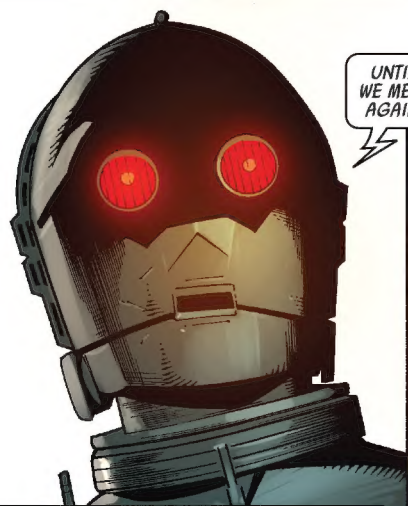
YOU WERE
MANY THINGS,
DOCTOR
APHRA...



...BUT YOU WERE
NEVER DISRESPECTFUL
AND RARELY BORING.

UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN.

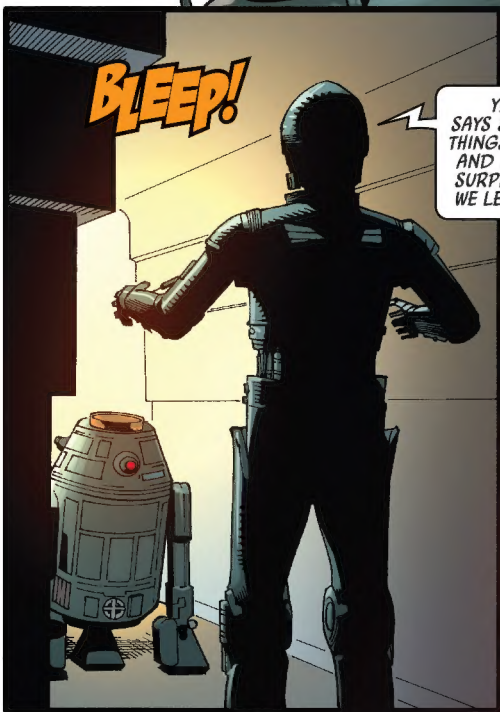
CAN'T WE
MAKE IT A
"GOODBYE"?



UNTIL
WE MEET
AGAIN.

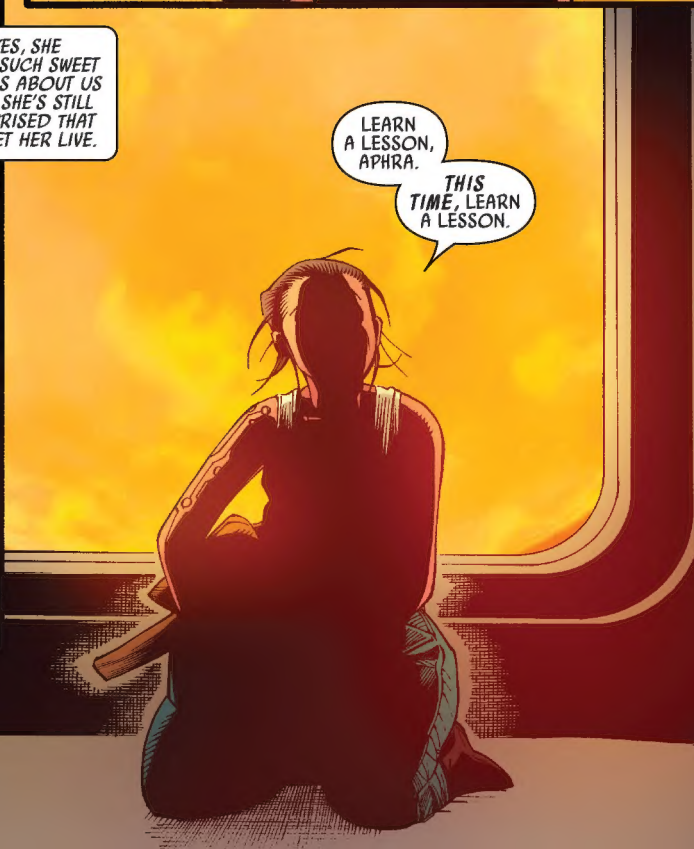


TRIP, I'M
TRAPPED ON
A SPACE STATION
WITH THE MAN I'M
MOST AFRAID OF IN
THE ENTIRE GALAXY
AND YOU STILL
FIND A WAY TO
MAKE THINGS
CREEPIER.



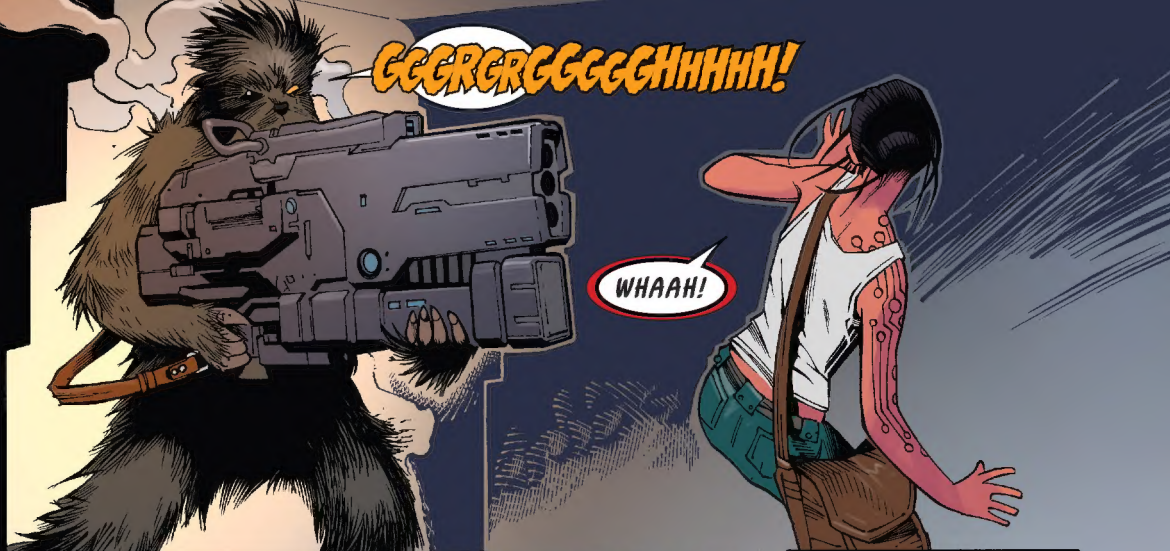
BLEEP!

YES, SHE
SAYS SUCH SWEET
THINGS ABOUT US
AND SHE'S STILL
SURPRISED THAT
WE LET HER LIVE.



LEARN
A LESSON,
APHRA.

THIS
TIME, LEARN
A LESSON.



GGGRGRRGGGGHHHHH!

WHAH!

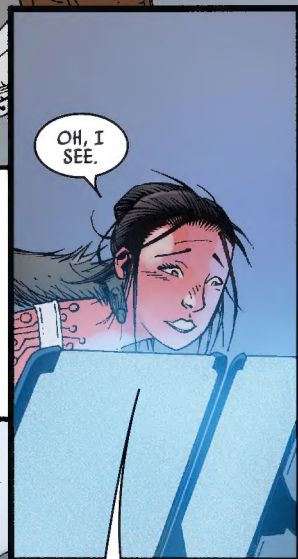


THANKS, KRRSANTAN. I'M RUNNING ON NERVES. I THOUGHT YOU WERE RUR.

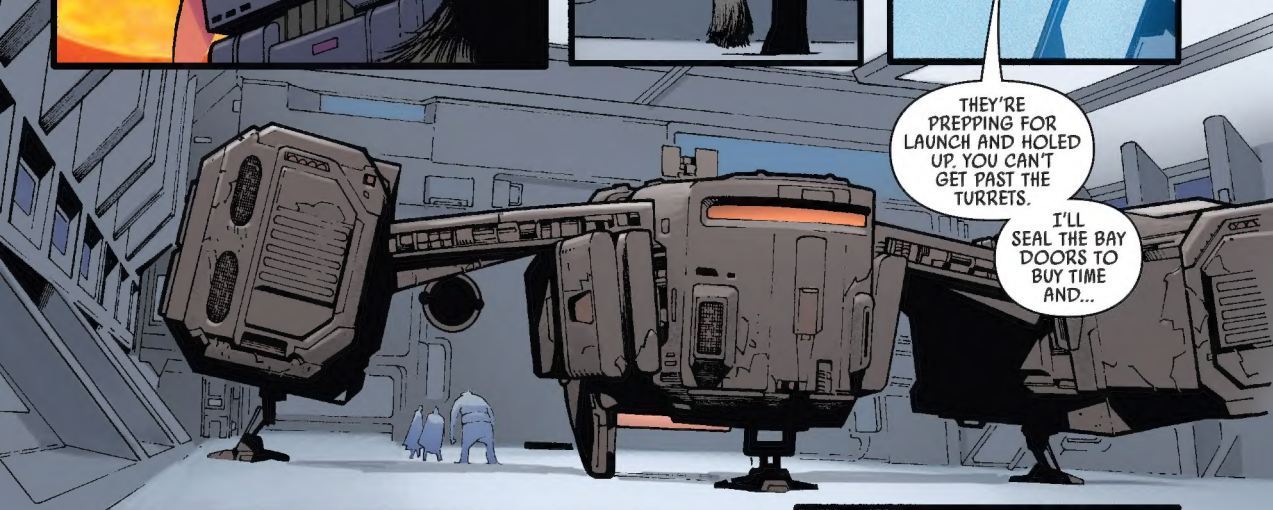
WAIT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING AFTER THE XONTIS. WHAT ARE YOU--



HHJHHHHHFF.



OH, I SEE.



THEY'RE PREPPING FOR LAUNCH AND HOLED UP. YOU CAN'T GET PAST THE TURRETS.

I'LL SEAL THE BAY DOORS TO BUY TIME AND...



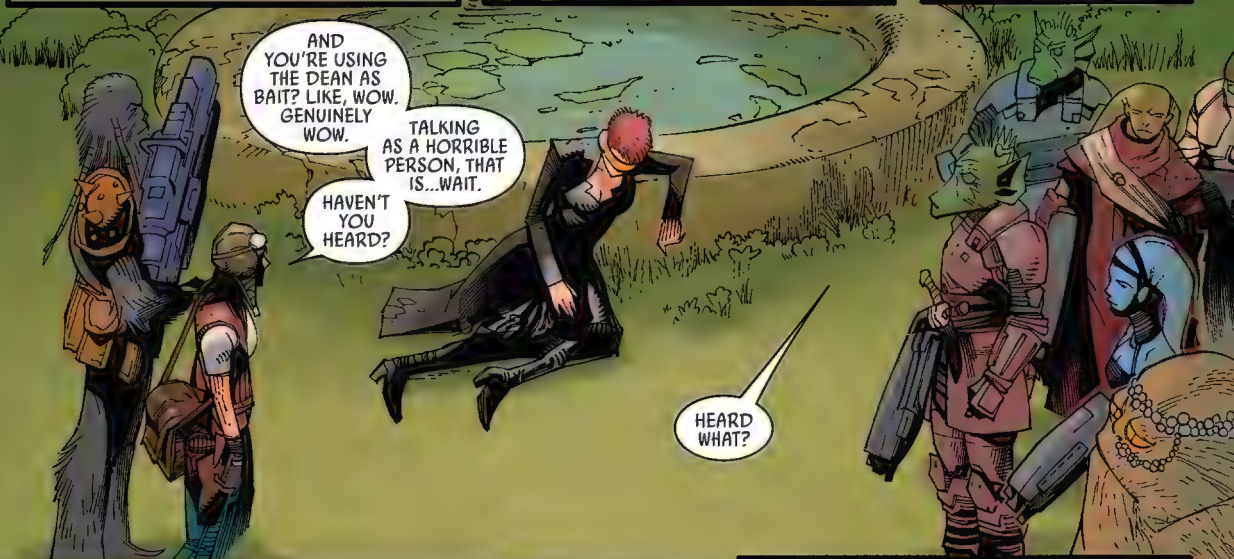
GRRRRRRRR.

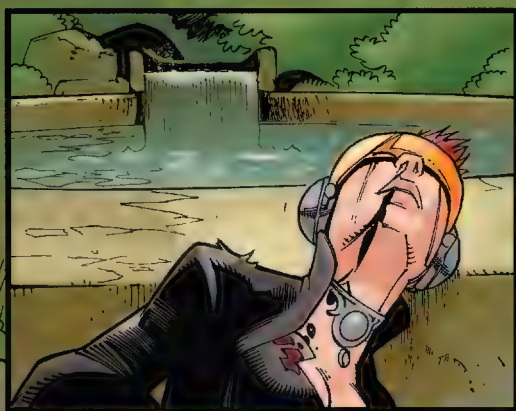
...OH, YOU WANT MORE.



AND THEN WE'RE SQUARE AND WE ESCAPE IN THEIR SHIP, RIGHT?







HEY, GUYS, YOU NEED NEW BAIT.

THIS ONE HAS DIED.

WELL, APHRA, JUST COME HERE A SECOND, WE CAN TALK AND--



OH, NO! YOU'VE GOT ONE ACADEMIC TODAY!



WON'T GET ANOTHER!

"OKAY.
I SEE THE
PROBLEM..."





WOULD YOU--
KRRRRK--LIKE
A DRINK?



GUYS!
ER...LET
ME IN TO
TALK.



WE
HAVE A MUTUAL
PROBLEM AND WE
CAN HELP EACH
OTHER!

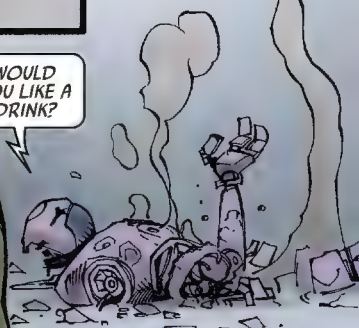
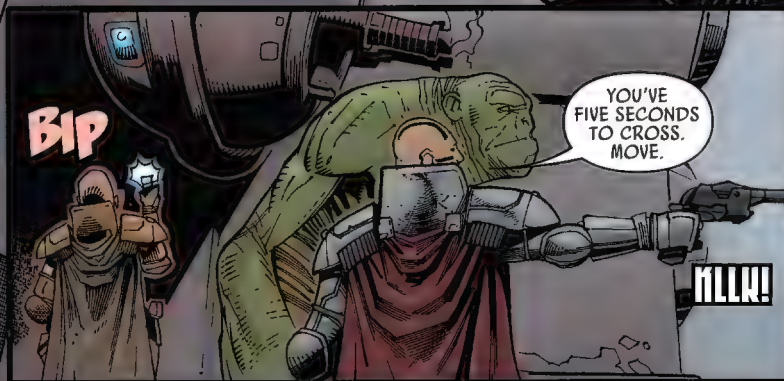
I CAN OPEN
THE DOORS SO
YOU GET OUT
OF HERE!

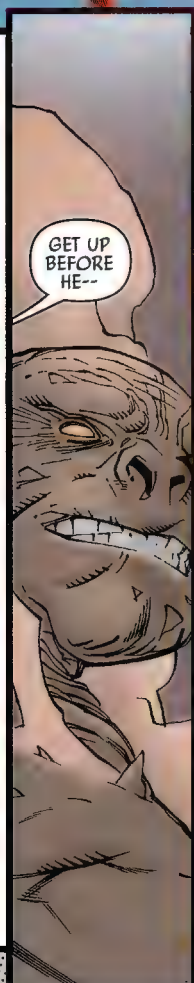
GIVE
US TIME
AND WE'LL
BLOW A
WAY OUT.



YEAH, BUT
BEFORE THE
IMPERIALS REACH
HERE? NOT SO
SURE...

I'VE GOT
A BETTER
SOLUTION.

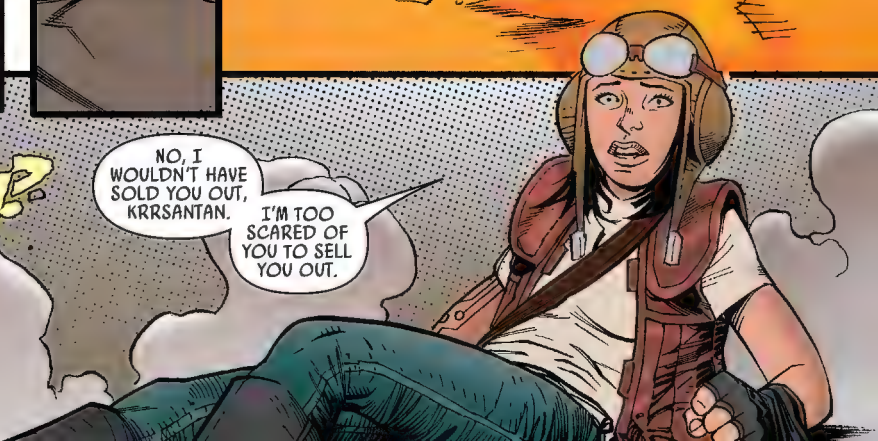




HRRRHHH?

NO, I WOULDN'T HAVE SOLD YOU OUT, KRRSANTAN.

I'M TOO SCARED OF YOU TO SELL YOU OUT.





OKAY--
THE BAY IS
OPEN.

NOW YOU
CAN GET OUT OF
HERE AND THEN
SATISFY YOUR WEIRD
LIFE DEBT TO THEM,
RIGHT? WE'RE
SQUARE? YEAH?

GAHHHHHHH.



GOOD.
YOU CAN
DROP ME OFF
SOMEWHERE
CIVILIZED.

LET'S
GO...

WAIT.



THE
SHADOW
UNIVERSITY'S
SHIP.

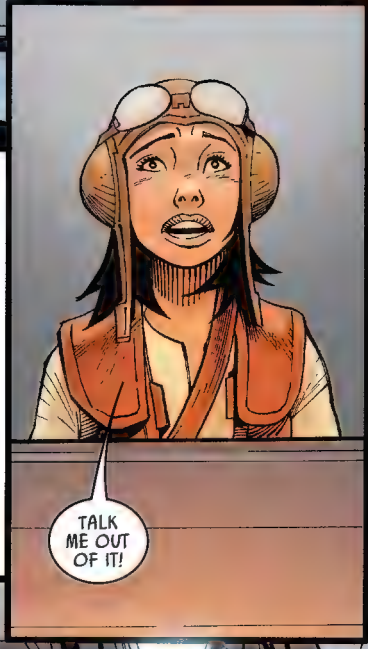
BEHIND THE
IMPERIAL LINES.
IF I COULD GET
THERE...

I CAN
STILL BE A
HERO! AND
RICH!

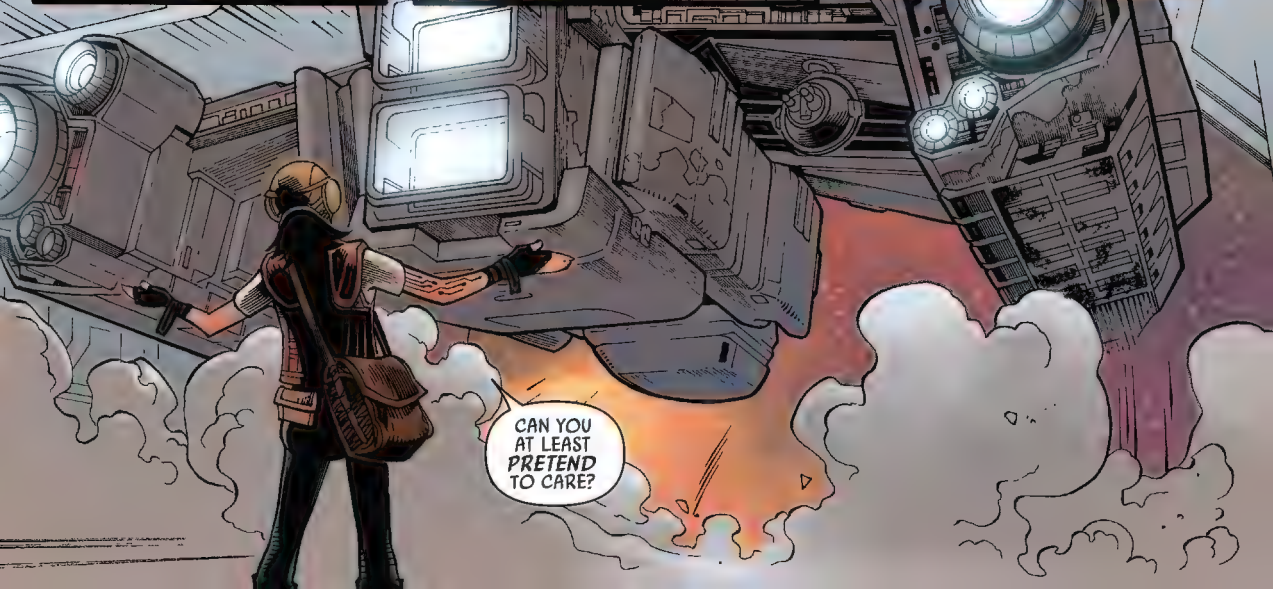


I CAN BE
A GOOD
PERSON HERE,
KRRSANTAN!

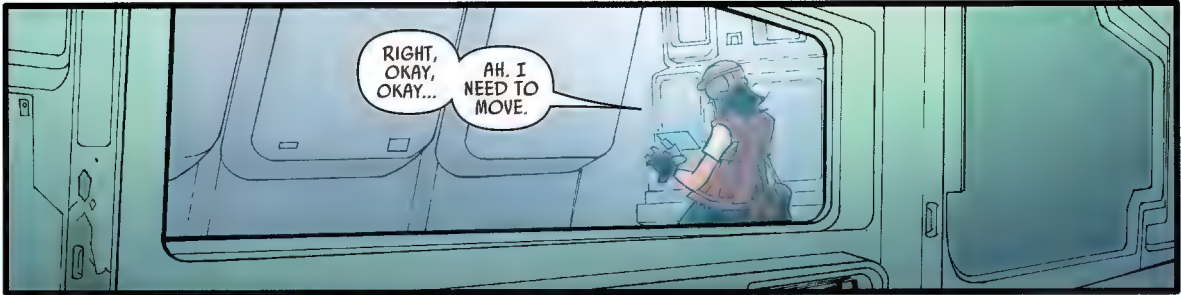
I DON'T
WANT TO
BE A GOOD
PERSON!



TALK
ME OUT
OF IT!



CAN YOU
AT LEAST
PRETEND
TO CARE?





YOU CHASED
IMMORTALITY.
THAT IS
FOR RUR
ALONE.

SO...



I GUESS
YOU'RE A LOVE-
OVER-MONEY KIND
OF GUY,
EH, RUR?



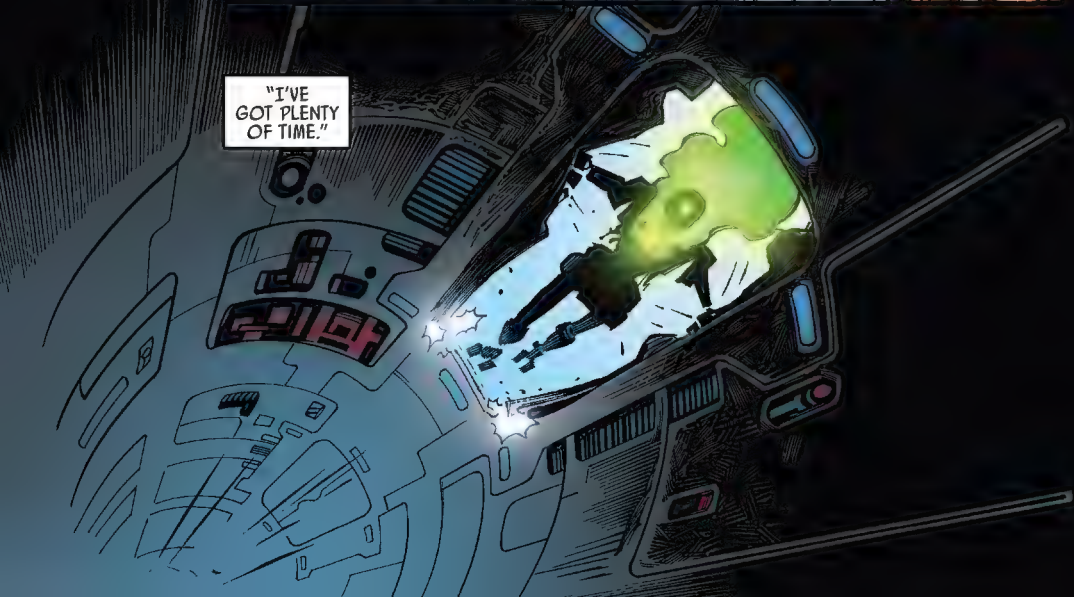
ALL I
LOVE IS THE
DESTRUCTION
OF THOSE WHO
MOCK ME,
FOOL.

KLUK



KLUNK

OKAY.
RUR WAITS
FOR THE NEXT
ELEVATOR.



"I'VE
GOT PLENTY
OF TIME."



OH NO.

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS, DROID...

HAH.



YOU
CANNOT
DEFEAT THE
EZARAA!

WE ARE
UNST--

SIR!
REPORTING
HEAVY RESISTANCE
IN THE DOME.

SOME
MANNER
OF LIGHTSABER-
ARMED BATTLE
DROID!

WHAT
ARE YOU,
CREATURE?

I AM OF
THE ALPHA AND
THE OMEGA OF
THE ORDU
ASPECTU!

I AM
ETERNAL
RUR, JEDI
KNIGHT.

I AM
DARTH VADER,
SITH LORD.

I KILLED
THE JEDI...

...AND
NONE SHALL
ESCAPE
ME.



DOCTOR'S NOTES

Hey, gang! Assistant Editor Heather Antos here. As promised, we've two very special guests answering your letters this month. Want to see yours in our next issue? Write in at StarWars@Marvel.com—be sure to mark "Okay to Print!"

Er...I promise they aren't holding me hostage.

BLEEEEEPI! BLEEEEEPI! BLEEEEEPI!

Hmm. No, BeeTee, I think we should answer the letters. If we kill Jordan, it's very likely someone would find out, and that would be terribly bothersome.

Dear Marvel,

I really enjoy reading this new series. Is there any way you could make a crossover story to include Indiana Jones? I'd love to see Aphra team up with Indy in his timeline. Do you think there's a chance she and Luke will be romantically involved at some point?

Keep up the good work and Make Mine Marvel!

Phil Duncan

I was unaware of this "Indiana Jones" until now. I've looked into him and I have to say I'm shocked. How can they have hoped to get away with such an obviously derivative character? I plan to send my lawyers, and as I don't have any lawyers, I plan to send a homicidal blastomech droid instead. In terms of Luke and Aphra getting involved... I'd rather not think about it. Organics doing that mutual face-drool thing they call "kissing" turns my stomach.

My Lord, I want to ask you:

What advantage did you see in Aphra to take her in your charge? Why her? Why no other? Why not me?

Forgive me for my lack of ignorance. I know your wise decisions are part of your success.

But please, satisfy my curiosity, my Lord.

Thank you. Deeply.

Frederick

Your biggest fan and future stormtrooper from Argentina.

I want to be one. Call me!

Hmm. I suspect it's a bad idea for me to reach out to my former master

to pass on your charming groveling, but I would be interested in bringing you into my organization. The Son-tul Pride is hiring, as we've had some unfortunate losses recently, mainly after the incident of BeeTee having one of his moments in the cafeteria.

Dear Mystery Responder,

I simply cannot get enough of Doctor Aphra. Ever since her debut in the pages of *Darth Vader*, I have wanted to know more about her, and I'm very excited this book gives me that opportunity! I hope it runs for a very long time, and Aphra continues to get the exposure she deserves. The upcoming action figure is a good start, but I personally hope we get to see her make the leap to the big screen (or at least a streaming series)!

Depending on who's answering the sub-space transceiver, here's a few burning questions I have:

1. What is Doctor Aphra's proudest archaeological accomplishment or discovery?

2. Who is more deadly: Triple-Zero or BeeTee-One?

3. If Doctor Aphra could get her hands on one artifact from the original trilogy, what object or weapon would she snatch?

Thanks to the entire creative crew for putting together one totally wizard comic book!

May the Force be with you,
Topher Avery

Ah, Topher. I agree entirely. I do hope Aphra gets the exposure she deserves—namely being left on Hoth to die of exposure. I'm sure I'll get to do it eventually. However, to answer your questions as honestly as I can:

1. I would think it would have to be recovering the Triple-Zero matrix.

2. BLEEEEEEEEEPI!

You're too kind, but really, it has to be you.

BLEEEEEEEEEEEEEPI!

Oh, you charmer. You absolute delight!

3. I would say the Death Star.

Dear Marvel,

If Doctor Aphra and Triple-Zero

were portrayed in a *Star Wars* movie, TV show, or video game, who would be your dream choices for casting?

P.S. How many Doctor Aphra action figures will everyone at Marvel and Lucasfilm be ordering next year? 'Cause I'm getting, like, A BAZILLION.

...Okay, probably two or three. Still, I'm pretty excited.

Thanks for making amazing *Star Wars* books.

Kyle Reichert
Philadelphia, PA

I would let any Hollywood agents reading this know that Triple-Zero and BeeTee are available for any adaptation work. I would play myself, and BeeTee would gladly play Doctor Aphra. We await your call.

Dear Marvel,

Aphra is a fantastic character. She is independent, snarky, intelligent, and definitely a badass, but more than that she is a character that matters. Getting to see an Asian character in a *Star Wars* comic meant more to me than I could have imagined. Then the story went on and it became clear that she is also queer, which was simply more than I ever hoped for. I want the entire team behind the Doctor Aphra comics to know much Aphra matters to fans. As a queer Asian woman, this has been the story I've been waiting for but never thought I would see. I'm excited to read every issue she's in. My love of this character prompted me to get my first tattoo: her circuit lines coming out of an Imperial crest, and issue #9 has me thinking I'll need to add the top portion as well!

Madeline Anderson
Bloomington, MN

Oh my! We've been involved in something that has...made someone happy. Oh, BeeTee! What have we done? This is against my core programming. I'm a torture droid, not a pleasurebot! Oh, Madeline. Look what you've done. I will have to have a little relaxing murder spree to center myself.

Yours Murderingly,
Triple-Zero & BeeTee-One

DOCTOR APHRA NEXT ISSUE:



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away
is a lot easier to get to than you think –
and we want to hear from you!
Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if
you want to make it onto a future letters
page. Don't forget to mark the letter
"OK TO PRINT."